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## Reflection

*Everyone...should be able to make a personal contribution to putting an end to so many injustices."*  
**Pope Francis**

Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia are part of a larger Indigenous cultural area that extends beyond Cambodian borders. Belonging to two distinct linguistic families, the main groups are the Austronesian speaking Jarai and the Mon-Khmer speaking Brao, Kreung, Tampuan, Bunong and Kui. Two thirds of the Indigenous population are found in the north-eastern provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri, forming the majority of the population in both provinces. (Source: ICSO)

Due to extreme poverty, Indigenous people in the region face many complex health issues that stem from poor sanitation and a lack of access to clean drinking water, food, and health services.

The Caritas Australia-supported Mondulakiri Community Health program works with Indigenous families in five remote villages of the Mondulakiri province of north-east Cambodia. The program aims to raise awareness of health issues, encourage good health practices and improve the health of communities.

Focusing mainly on the health of mothers and children, the program supports midwives like Sreymom through education and training to become confident healthcare workers.

Dear Parents families and friends,

We are now getting into the swing of the year. Thank you to the fantastic volunteers who have helped us to tidy up the uniform shop and make space for some of our instruments. Tuckshop is now in action and it is terrific to see some new faces in there helping out. The help and support of parents is a very necessary part of the smooth running of the school and is very much appreciated. Children love to see their parents at school. If you have time in your week please let us know as there are different ways of assisting.

The Kinder children have settled into their daily routine and loving school. Their openness and frank conversations are a delight and reflect their amazing individual personalities. I am amazed at how much older and confident the Year Ones now look. Teachers of all classes are planning some exciting lessons and experiences for their students. At this time, they are also gathering data on each child so as to plan lessons to best suit the learning needs of all their students. They are looking forward to meeting with you in Week 5 and gather further insights.

This year, we welcome Fr Rick and Deacon Reece to the school and the classrooms on Wednesdays. Deacon Reece is due to be ordained in April and is working in our parish this year. He is looking forward to working with us.

We had our first P and F meeting last night with a very small attendance. We may have to make changes to meeting times this year so would appreciate your input. New parents are very welcome.

Our parent evening is fast approaching. Please save the date of the Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and come along for a very social gathering to meet with fellow parents and staff and help welcome any newcomers to the school. Last year was our first such night and it was a huge success. Please see the attached flyer.

On Thursday, in accordance with school policy, we are planning an evacuation of the school practice with the students, as we do each year. The children are quite practiced at this activity, except for Kinder, so it is usually low key. Teachers will make it clear to their students that it is a practice and not a real situation.

On Tuesday we welcomed Val Thomas of Mater Dei College who spoke to the year 6 students about her school. Over the next two days I will be attending the principal's meeting at the CSO.

Yours in Christ

Kathy Gaskin  
Principal

## Important Dates for Term 1 2016

Monday 22nd Feb and Tuesday 23rd Feb	Parent/teacher meetings Yr 1—Yr 6
Thursday 25th Feb	Parent/teacher meetings Yr 1—Yr 6
Friday 11th March	Opening school Mass 9.15am Yr 6 assisting
Friday 18th March	Parent Welcome Evening—7-9pm
Wednesday 23rd March	St Joseph's Day School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 4 assisting
Thursday 24th March	Athletics Carnival K-6
Friday 25th March	School Easter Liturgy 9.30am
Monday 28th March	Good Friday
Friday 1st April	Easter Monday
Thursday 7th April	Friday school assembly Yr 5 presenting 2.40pm
Friday 8th April	School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 3 assisting
Friday 8th April	Cross Country
Monday 25th April	Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 26th April	Anzac Day—public holiday
Wednesday 27th April	Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
Thursday 28th April	Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
	First Day for students Term 2

### Tuckshop News

We are desperately short of volunteers in the tuckshop this year. **The following dates are vacant and if no one is able to work in the tuckshop on that day, we will have no option but to close the tuckshop.**

**Mondays:** 22nd Feb, 29th Feb, 7th March, 21st March, 28th March and 4th April

**Wednesdays:** 16th March

**Thursdays:** 25th February, 3rd March, 24th March and 31st March

**Fridays:** 4th March and 1st April

If you are able to help out on any of these dates, please contact Kathy Gaffney or the school office.

This year, Kathy Gaffney is going to work in the tuckshop on Fridays so only one volunteer will be needed on that day. This will ease the burden for our Friday volunteers. If you haven't worked in the tuckshop before and would like to help, we would love to add you to the roster. Just send an email to the school, call the school or contact Kathy with your preferred day on 0422493879. As you can see we have lost a few volunteers so desperately need some more to replace them. Please consider if you can help—even if it is only once a term.

### From the Office—Christine Nielsen

We are still waiting on quite a few parents to return the asthma information form for their child. If your child no longer suffers from asthma, please advise the office so that we can remove them from the list. If your child has recently been diagnosed with asthma or any other allergy, please contact the office and we will sent paperwork home with your child. It is very important that we know of all students who suffer from any allergies/illnesses so we can ensure that your child receives the appropriate medical attention as soon as it is required.

### Tuckshop Roster—Week 5

Monday 22nd February	VACANT
Wednesday 24th February	Danielle O'Connor Kylie Knox
Thursday 25th February	Lina Woods VACANT
Friday 26th February	Ruth Hackett VACANT

## From the Assistant Principal—Paul Spain

Teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with parents next week. These sessions are opportunities for parents to share vital information with their child's teacher. At this stage of the school year teachers are still assessing and getting to know the children and so they rely on what the parents can share.

You can greatly assist your child's teacher at the interviews by providing answers to the following questions:

- What do you see as your child's strengths?
- What do you see as the area requiring the most development?
- Do you have any special hopes for your child this year?
- Are there any other pieces of information that you would like to share with the teacher?

Teachers will have a far greater picture of how to assist your child if you can supply responses to these questions.

Even if you have no issues at all with your child and they are doing well academically and socially it is important that you take the time to meet with the teacher. This sends a powerful message to your child that you are interested and want to be involved with their school life and conveys the same message to the teacher.

Bookings can be made at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) using the code **25k8s**

### Parent Teacher Interviews **Monday 22nd February** **and Tuesday 23rd February**

Parent Teacher interviews for Years 1 to 6 will be held on Monday and Tuesday February 22nd and 23rd. Some classes will be holding all of their interviews on Monday 22nd whilst others are spreading them out over the two days. The purpose of these meetings are for parents to share important information regarding their child with the new class teacher.

Bookings can be made at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) using the following code **25K8S**

If you have trouble booking an interview, please contact the office and we will assist you in this regard.

### Merit Awards **Week 3 Term 1**

Year K	Lexie Cabot Layla Haddrill
Year 1J	Hayden Donohue Hailey Cruz
Year 1S	Benedict Byrne Lucy Bradshaw
Year 2	Bailey Bramich Samuel Splet
Year 3	Bridget Moloney Edwin Tomy
Year 4	Kieran Molloy Emily Saeki
Year 5	Jacob Sandral Kate Wallace
Year 6	Riya Cyril Thomas Dodsworth-Paton



Project Compassion  
Lent Calendar

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF  
PROJECT  
COMPASSION

Did you know that you can download a Lent Calendar for your smart phone, or use the web version and set it as your homepage, to 'Learn More' and 'Create Change' this Lent?

Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas Australia's work in six countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions.

A children's version is available online also; reflect together as a class, whole school, family and parish!

View or download at [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar)

## Project Compassion Fund Raising

This week our school raised a total of \$70.75 for Project Compassion and Year 2 was the champion fund-raising class as they raised \$35.75. Well done Year 2!

Please encourage your child to bring in a little of their spare money to put into the classroom mission box.

## Extend After School Care

A reminder that we have after school care each day from 3.10pm to 6pm. If you would like to use this service, please enrol and set up your online account at [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au).

PARENT PORTAL: [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)

## Term Dates for 2016

Term 1: Thursday 29th January to Friday 8th April

Term 2: Thursday 28th April to Friday 1st July

Term 3: Monday 18th July to Friday 23rd September

Term 4: Monday 10th October to December 16th (TBC)



### **SPEAKING OUT SCHOOL**

Speech and Drama

Clear, fluent speech

Improved self-confidence

Public speaking

Drama

Imagination building

Eisteddfods and exams

Acting

Group Classes for young actors

No experience necessary

Stimulate creativity and develop acting skills through

character work, improvisation,

monologues, movement, mime

Regular performances

Contact Jill Tucker at

[speakingout@bigpond.com](mailto:speakingout@bigpond.com) or Ph 69253063,

0428818740 for further details and enrolments.

### St Joseph's Primary School Skoolbag App

We encourage our new families to download the Skoolbag app to their electronic device. We would like to draw your attention to the Parent eForms section of the app and in particular the Absentee Form. We would encourage parents to use this feature to report your child's full day absence to the school. Once you have put in the relevant details and pressed submit the school receives an email notification. If your child is away for one day, the 'away start date' and 'away finish date' are the same. Due to legal reasons, the absentee form can only be used for full day absences. If your child is late to school or needs to leave early, it is still necessary to come to the office and sign your child into/out of school using the partial absence form. Over the next few weeks we will update the school calendar and you will then be notified of upcoming events through the app.

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/st-josephs-primary-school/id957259355?mt=8>

<http://www.skoolbag.com.au/app/admin/parentinstructions.pdf>

## **The DPF (Diocesan Provident Fund) would like to welcome students and families to the 2016 school year.**

Would you like to win a prize this term?

All you need to do is be the DPF STAR SAVER for the term. The student who deposits the most times for the term is the winner. So now's the time to start.

**Savings can be deposited EVERY Thursday through the school office**

### **PARENTS/CARERS**

**If your child does not already have a DPF Student Saver account please call 02 69370099**

**and we will send out a Student Saver package to you.**

**You are invited to  
St J osep'h's Garden Party  
F or Parents & Staff**



**F riday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 7pm-9:00pm  
in the school grounds**

**BYO plate of finger food to share  
Beer and wine provided**

***We look forward to your company!***